

waste management activities of the department." The suitability study found that, in general, the technical quality of the hazardous waste worker health and safety training prepared under the NIEHS program would meet DOE facility needs. The program is cost-effective and provides specialized training to meet the needs of specific segments of the DOE workforce.

The cleanup of the nation's nuclear weapons complex will be the largest and most costly environmental remediation effort ever undertaken. The DOE currently estimates that cleanup at the 14 primary weapons complex sites in 13 states will take more than 30 years, cost more than \$100 billion, and employ thousands of scientists, engineers, technicians, and construction workers.

A recent congressional report by the Office of Technology Assessment states that current DOE efforts to protect workers involved in hazardous waste cleanup are "hindered by a lack of emphasis on occupational safety and health issues in Superfund and RCRA procedures." The Office of Technology Assessment found three structural flaws in DOE's worker pro-

tection: lack of management commitment to occupational safety and health priorities, insufficient professionally trained staff, and lack of independent oversight and enforcement of DOE safety and health policies.

Applications for supplemental awards to support training programs for nuclear weapons site cleanup workers were submitted to NIEHS during March 1993 and will be evaluated through the regular NIH peer review process. New awards for the program will be made on 1 July 1993, and training will begin at waste sites across the country during September.

DeGray Awarded Walter J. Johnson Prize

Janice DeGray, a postdoctoral fellow at NIEHS, has been named the co-recipient of the Walter J. Johnson Prize by the editorial board of the Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics. The prize includes an expenses-paid trip to the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology/American Chemical Society Joint Meeting in San Diego, California, in June to receive the prize and a \$5000 cash award.

The prize is presented by the editorial board every three years to recognize scientists within five years of completion of their doctorates who publish the scientific papers of greatest distinction. DeGray's paper, "Reduction of Paraquat and Related Bipyridylium Compounds to Free Radical Metabolites by Rat Hepatocytes," was co-authored with NIEHS colleagues D.N. Ramakrishna Rao and Ronald P. Mason. DeGray is in the Free Radical Metabolites Workgroup of the NIEHS Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics.

DeGray's study demonstrates that paraquat and related herbicides are metabolized to free radicals by liver cells. These free radicals are ultimately responsible for the many deaths resulting from accidental poisonings by these chemicals.



Janice DeGray, co-recipient of the 1993 Walter J. Johnson Prize.

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